

NATURAL NEWS

VOLUME I

SPRING 2011

EDITION I

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NATUROPATHIC
MEDICINE
COMMITTEE

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SACRAMENTO, CA 95834

WEB SITE: www.naturopathic.ca.gov

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New laws for 2011

As a result of successful legislation sponsored by the California Naturopathic Doctors Association (Senate Bill 1246, Negrete McLeod), naturopathic doctors (N.D.s) may now hire and train naturopathic assistants. Please see our Web site at www.naturopathic.ca.gov/licensees/index.shtml for details.

SB 1246 also gave N.D.s the authority to apply for a CLIA Certificate of Waiver in order that an N.D. may become a lab director to perform waived laboratory tests. A link to the application certificate can be found at: www.naturopathic.ca.gov/about_us/links.shtml under "Health Provider Information."

Please be aware that all California middle and high school students entering or advancing into 7th through 12th grades will need proof of a Tdap booster shot before starting the 2011-2012 school year. To view the free one-hour CME webcast: "Shots For School: Clinicians' Role in California's New Tdap Requirement for 7th – 12th Graders," go to: www.uctv.tv/capertussis/. For additional information on the new Tdap school requirement, visit www.ShotsForSchool.org.

Meet your Committee members

The members of the Naturopathic Medicine Committee (Committee) are appointed by the Governor. There is currently one M.D. vacancy. Current members include:

David Field, N.D., LAc (Chair) (Santa Rosa)

Tara Levy, N.D. (Vice Chair) (Lafayette)

Koren Barrett, N.D. (Costa Mesa/Irvine)

Michael Hirt, M.D. (Tarzana)

K.T. Leung, C.P.A. (San Marino)

Gregory Weisswasser, N.D. (Grass Valley)

Beverly Yates, N.D. (San Rafael)

Caleb Zia, Ed.D. (Huntington Beach)

Each member has a unique background and brings his or her own energy and commitment to the Committee. Please take the time to go to our web site to read about each of the members at www.naturopathic.ca.gov/about_us/members.shtml.



Have boxes, will travel

As many of you know, the Committee was moved under the Osteopathic Medical Board of California (OMBC) effective October 29, 2009, which required the physical relocation of staff and Committee records. The OMBC offices are located at 1300 National Drive, Suite 150, which is in the Natomas area of Sacramento. If you are ever in Sacramento, feel free to stop by and visit.

NOTICE: Naturopathic corporations

It has come to the attention of the Committee that some naturopathic corporations created in California may not be following legal requirements; specifically, they are improperly named. The Committee does not actively search naturopathic corporations to find violations, but has occasion to identify violations subsequent to other processes.

Business and Professions Code section 3674 states, "The name of a naturopathic corporation and any name or names under which it may render professional services, shall contain the words 'naturopathic' or 'naturopathic doctor' and, as appropriate, wording or abbreviations denoting its status as a corporation." This does not apply to noncorporate entities.

You are hereby notified that if your naturopathic corporation does not currently comply with the above law, you have until June 1, 2012, to correct the name. After that time, the Committee will cite and fine individual naturopathic doctors for unprofessional conduct for violating section 3674 of the Naturopathic Doctors Act.

Expert consultants needed!

As a healing arts board, the Committee's first priority is the protection of the public. Sometimes, that requires the review and analysis of patient files in order to respond to complaints made against naturopathic doctors involving patient care. We need your help!

We are asking you to volunteer your time to your Committee. The Committee is not budgeted to pay its expert reviewers and cannot reimburse costs associated with travel in cases of mandatory attendance at an administrative hearing. (Committee members themselves cannot volunteer due to conflict of interest.) Even though it is unlikely you will ever be called upon to do an expert review, let alone testify, we still need your commitment.

If you wish to provide this service to your profession, please verify that you meet the criteria for an expert reviewer as found on our Web site at www.naturopathic.ca.gov/licensees/expertreviewr.shtml. If you qualify, you may apply by completing and signing the "Application for Expert Reviewer" found on the above Web page and returning it to our office.



COMMITTEE GOALS FOR 2011-2012

The Committee has formed four subcommittees:

- (1) Legislative
- (2) Scope of Practice
- (3) Disciplinary Guidelines
- (4) Job Qualifications for Executive Officer and Staff positions.

The Committee will also be writing regulations to adopt Disciplinary Guidelines and to allow for the nongratis practice of naturopathic physicians from other states at free health clinics and during times of disaster.

Where are you NOW?

FAX, E-MAIL, OR MAIL:

Report address changes to the Committee within 14 days – it's required by law AND saves everyone time. Fax to (916) 928-4787 or e-mail to naturopathic@dca.ca.gov.

We need your correct e-mail address

E-mail is the most cost-effective and fastest way to communicate with our licensees. E-mail addresses are PRIVATE and will not be released under any circumstances. If you changed your e-mail address in the past two years, please let us know by clicking on the "Contact Us" button at the top of our Web page. Simply send us an e-mail stating "New e-mail for license # ND-XXX."

Don't jeopardize your license: Report illegal practice

You may know someone who is using the title of "N.D." or "N.M.D." and/or is practicing naturopathic medicine in California without a license. This may be someone with whom you attended school and who refuses to license, someone who never passed NPLEX, someone coming into California occasionally from another state, or someone who just decided not to renew his or her license. It doesn't matter – if the person is not licensed, he or she is breaking the law, and you could be guilty of aiding and abetting unlicensed practice by just knowing about that individual but not reporting the activity to the Committee. In other words, failure to report unlicensed activity to the Committee puts YOUR license in jeopardy.

You may contact the Committee with information on unlicensed persons and remain anonymous. Remember, licensing under any healing arts board in California is a privilege, not a right.

Who is this?

He is an inaugural member of the Naturopathic Advisory Council (2005). He received his bachelor of arts degree in biology from Colorado College in 1975 and earned his naturopathic doctor degree at the National College of Naturopathic Medicine in Portland, Oregon, in 1985. Upon graduation, he moved to San Francisco, where he co-founded the California Association of Naturopathic Physicians (now California Naturopathic Doctors Association). After completing the Certificate program at the San Francisco College of Acupuncture and Oriental Medicine, he successfully passed the California Acupuncture Board exam in 1986 and is licensed in California as an acupuncturist. In January 2005, he became the first licensed naturopathic doctor (ND-1) in California. (**See back page for answer.)



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Continuing education

DON'T WAIT until your renewal arrives in the mail to start thinking about continuing education (CE)! As soon as you renew, start planning your CE activities for the next two years: You will save yourself stress and worry. If you are not sure if the class you would like to take qualifies for California CE, check with the class provider first. It is the provider's responsibility to apply to the correct approver for classes to meet requirements for California naturopathic doctors.

Going green

In an effort to cut down on the amount of paper used by the Committee, we no longer keep copies in file of the cover letters mailed with your licenses. Sounds small, but just eliminating these copies saves paper AND saves on file space. We also use file folders and envelopes made of 100 percent recycled paper and have an in-office recycling program for paper and refuse.

ENFORCEMENT ACTIONS

UNLICENSED ACTIVITY:

Citation and fine for illegal use of title
(Business and Professions Code 3660):

DATE	NAME	FINE
APRIL 6, 2011	ROSALIA MARIZ	\$2,500
APRIL 6, 2011	IAN MUSSMAN	\$2,500
APRIL 9, 2011	MARIA BAEZ, LAc	\$2,500
APRIL 9, 2011	ARASH MOHRDAR, D.C.	\$2,500
APRIL 9, 2011	DEANNA WEEKS	\$5,000

***"Who is this?" answer: David Field, N.D., LAc